



# News Release

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### **Groundwater cleanup begins at Memphis Depot Main Installation**

**MEMPHIS, TENN.** — During the week of May 1, 2006, the Memphis Depot Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team and its environmental contractors will begin remedial action initiatives to treat affected groundwater in the shallow aquifer beneath the Memphis Depot Main Installation.

As outlined in the Main Installation Record of Decision, the approved remedy for groundwater includes Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment, Monitored Natural Attenuation, and land use controls to prevent future exposure to affected groundwater which is not a source of drinking water in Memphis/Shelby County.

Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment is being used to treat Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds such as solvents in the groundwater approximately 80 to 100 feet below the surface. In the southwest corner of the main installation, 37 injection wells will be used to introduce sodium lactate into the groundwater. In the southeast corner, 12 injection wells will be used. Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment is considered an effective treatment where concentrations of solvents are the highest.

Construction of the injection systems is scheduled to be completed in October immediately followed by injections of sodium lactate. The injections are planned for two years and will occur biweekly during the first year and monthly during the second year. The cleanup goals in the Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment areas are expected to be achieved by the end of the second year.

Monitored Natural Attenuation will be used in areas where Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds are at lower levels, allowing the environmental team to monitor the environment's natural ability to break down the solvents and restore the groundwater over time. Cleanup goals in the Monitored Natural Attenuation areas are expected to be achieved after eight years.

"This marks another important step toward our goals in this cleanup program," said Michael Dobbs, Environmental Program Manager for the Defense Distribution Center, the federal agency overseeing the cleanup. "We will continue to follow our plan for the restoration of the former Memphis Depot so that the property can be used safely and productively."

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The Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will review the effectiveness of this remedy at five year intervals to ensure the site continues to be safe for future use.

The environmental contractors will prepare an Interim Remedial Action Completion Report after the Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment injection system has been constructed, the first year of injections have been completed, and Enhanced Bioremediation Treatment and Monitored Natural Attenuation have been determined to be operating properly and successfully.

The report must be reviewed and approved by the Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The approved final Interim Remedial Action Completion Report will be placed in the Memphis Depot's information repositories.

The Notice of Land Use Restrictions was recorded in the Permanent Record Archives of the Office of the Shelby County Register on January 26, 2005, and is available for public review online in the administrative record.

The Main Installation Record of Decision, Remedial Design, and Remedial Action Work Plan are available for public review in the Memphis Depot's information repositories located at the Cherokee Branch Library and the Memphis Depot Business Park.

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